QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
What is the SIS-A?	
What is the SIS-A?	The Supports Intensity Scale for Adults (SIS-A) is a valid and reliable tool used as a member needs assessment. Developed and maintained by the Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the SIS-A is a comprehensive planning tool that measures support needs in the areas of home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety, and social activities. The SIS-A typically takes 2-3 hours to gather the information needed and complete in full.
Is the SIS-A a formal interview or more of a conversation?	It's more of a conversation. A trained assessor will guide the discussion, but it's meant to be relaxed and open. You will talk together about the kinds of support the person needs in different parts of their life.
Is a SIS-A required?	Everyone enrolled in Sections 21 or 29, and anyone planning to join the new Lifespan Waiver, is strongly encouraged to complete a SIS-A soon. During 2026–2027, getting your SIS-A done early will help make sure providers get paid on time using the new rate system. Waiting too long could cause delays once the new tiered rates are in place. We ask that people complete their SIS-A as soon as possible, starting with Agency Group Home participants first, then Shared Living, then Home Supports.
What is the Lifespan Waiver and how does it connect to the SIS-A?	The Lifespan Waiver is a new program being proposed by OADS. It is designed to support people across their whole life, with services that change as their needs change. It will support people in making their own choices, being part of their community, and trying new kinds of services. The SIS-A will be required to take part in the Lifespan Waiver. It will also be required for Sections 21 and 29. To learn more, visit the OADS website and read the Lifespan FAQ document.
Maine SIS-A Support – Contacts and Resources	
Who is Maximus?	Maximus is the company chosen by the State of Maine and OADS to conduct SIS-A assessments across Maine. Maximus has been doing SIS assessments in Maine and other states for more than 15 years. They work closely with AAIDD, the group that created the SIS-A. You can learn more at **maximus.com/clinical-services**.
How do I contact Maximus with questions about the SIS-A?	Phone: 833.771.4639 Email: **Maine-SIS@maximus.com** Online: Visit Maximus **Maine SIS Tools & Resources page online for helpful materials**.

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QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Where can I find support materials online about the SIS-A?	Visit the Maximus Maine SIS Tools & Resources page. It has contact information, updates, and helpful links that will keep growing over time. For information about how the SIS-A connects to Sections 21, 29, and the proposed Lifespan Waiver, go to the OADS SIS-A web page and look for the FAQ document there.
Where can I learn more about how the SIS-A was designed?	Visit the **AAIDD website**. AAIDD created the SIS-A and has detailed information about how it works and what it measures.
Understanding The SIS-A Assessment Process	
How does the assessment scheduling process work?	Maximus will reach out to the Community Case Manager (CCM) first to talk about who should be at the assessment. If Maximus does not hear back within three business days, they will contact the member and their guardian directly. Once everyone is identified, Maximus will work with the group to find the best day, time, and location. They will then confirm the details with the person who will lead the assessment.
Who should be at the assessment?	AAIDD requires at least 2 people to be present and is best practice if they attend for the entirety of the assessment. These should be people who have known the member for at least 90 days and have spent recent time with them. Everyone who attends should be someone the member is comfortable having there. Good people to include are: • The member • Guardians, family members, and/or close friends • Direct support staff from where the person lives, works, or spends their day • The case manager, if they have known the person for at least 90 days (strongly recommended) *Schedulers will also reinforce this at the time of scheduling and in follow-up emails for confirmation.*
Does the member have to attend?	The waiver participant does not have to attend, but it is strongly encouraged. The assessor can offer breaks and find flexible ways to make it easier for the member to take part.
How should I prepare for the SIS?	All participants attending a SIS on behalf of the member being assessed must have known the person for at least 90 days and be familiar with their current support needs. There is no content preparation required prior to the SIS. Those attending will be able to

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	respond to the questions based on their knowledge of the person. Participants in the SIS-A interview should not bring additional materials or equipment to the assessment, other than assistive tech needed to participate in the assessment.
Who are the assessors and what is their training?	All assessors are trained and certified by AAIDD, the group that created the SIS-A. This means every assessor follows the same standards. Each assessor's work is also checked regularly to make sure the quality stays high.
Where does the assessment take place?	The assessment should be held somewhere private, where everyone can sit comfortably for 2 to 3 hours. Good options include a room in the person's home, a day program meeting room, a case manager's office, or another quiet office space. Some public libraries also have private rooms that can be reserved.
How long does the assessment take?	Most assessments take between 2 and 2½ hours. Some may take up to 3 hours.
What if the person can't sit through the whole assessment?	The assessor will still meet the person, even briefly. Staff who know the person well can help answer questions. The assessment is designed to be flexible and can be adjusted to fit what works best for the person.
What if the assessment can't be finished in one visit?	That's okay. The assessor and everyone involved will work together to schedule more time to finish.
What happens after the assessment?	The Case Management Agency will receive the results and share them with the person and their team by email, mail, or in person. The team can then use the results to help plan for the person's Person-Centered Planning meeting.

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